

**Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm at Allendale Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Simmonds (Chair), Councillors Beck, Coulson, Graham, Halliday, Kirk, Philipson, Stevenson, Swaile and Villiers-Stuart, and H Newsome (Clerk)

**1) Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Howard and White and Co Cllr Horncastle

**2) Declarations of interest**

There were no changes; see APC's website for full list:

[Declarations of Interest \(new council 2022\) 0.pdf \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](#)

**3) Planning Committee – planning applications**

**22/03511/LBC - 2 Sipton Terrace, Sparty Lea**

Cllr Kirk proposed **to support** the application, with Cllr Stevenson seconding this, as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development (ANDP) Plan Policies 1: General Development Principles and 10: Small Scale Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Schemes, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

**22/03500/FUL 2 - Sipton Terrace, Sparty Lea**

Cllr Beck proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Kirk seconding this, and the Council unanimously carried the motion

**22/03483/FUL - Sparty Lea Methodist Church, B6295 Sparty Lea Main Road**

Cllr Kirk proposed **to object** to the application, with Cllr Halliday seconding this, as there was no main sewerage in Sparty Lea and because the existing water supply was unlikely to support the extra demand, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

**22/03614/FUL - Arqiva Communications Mast Pax Hill, Allenheads**

Cllr Stevenson proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Kirk seconding this, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

**22/03623/VARYCO - Swinhope Row U8006 Coatenhill Junction To Hope Head**

Cllr Kirk proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Stevenson seconding this, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

**22/03707/VARYCO – Redhurst, The Dene, Allendale**

Cllr Kirk proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Swaile seconding this, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

**22/00236/LBC – Dawson Place, Allendale - Hearing on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The Council discussed the application and unanimously agreed that its original recommendation (on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022) **to support** the application, as it was in keeping with ANDP Policy 10: Small Scale Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Schemes, was already on the record, and it did not intend to send a representative to the planning hearing on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**4) Public participation**

There was one member of the public in attendance. See 10) Rights of Way & Access Committee below.

**5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Cllr Stevenson agreed, and Cllr Graham seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**6) Matters Arising**

**Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Review**

The Council discussed the stages that it would need to go through during the process of reviewing the ANDP, including commissioning a Housing Needs Survey. Cllr Simmonds said that the review would provide an opportunity to strengthen Policy 10: Small Scale Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Schemes to encourage solar energy solutions including within the setting of the conservation area. Cllr Swaile proposed to take up NCC's Neighbourhood Planning Team's offer of help with the pilot review, with Cllr Coulson seconding this, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

#### **Damaged pavement outside Post Office cash point machine and loose flagstones outside Bunkhouse**

Cllr Beck confirmed that local contractor Dave Greenwood had agreed to fix both the pavement outside the Post Office cash point machine and the loose flagstones outside the Bunkhouse in the next few weeks.

#### **Environmental sustainability policy**

The Council considered the draft Environmental and Sustainability policy alongside Helen Elliott's suggested *pledges*. After discussion, Cllr Stevenson proposed to adopt the draft policy, with Cllr Beck seconding this, and the Council unanimously carried the motion. Cllr Simmonds said that the next stage would be to encourage and help the community by supporting local actions that protect the environment.

### **7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update**

Co Cllr Horncastle sent his apologies ahead of the meeting as he was required to stand in for the Leader of the Council at another meeting at short notice.

#### **Bus shelters for Allendale and Catton**

Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed once again that he wanted the Council to press ahead with its plans to install bus shelters in Allendale and Catton and that he would meet the installation costs of one of them in this financial year. Cllrs Graham and Stevenson agreed with Co Cllr Horncastle that it might be easier to make progress with the Catton bus shelter and they agreed to hold a consultation with Catton residents to discuss a suitable design. The Clerk would put the request for financial assistance in writing to Co Cllr Horncastle as he suggested.

#### **Bus shelter for Allendale**

The Clerk agreed to arrange for the Towns & Villages Committee to meet with representatives of Go-Ahead Buses to agree on a new location for the bus stop that was away from the Market Square.

### **8) Allotments Committee**

Cllr Coulson said that the Allotments Committee had identified land suitable for developing allotments and that it would be consulting the community to obtain its views.

The Council agreed for the Clerk to write to the tenants of the allotments as well as those on the waiting list to ask for confirmation of continuity of tenancy, and to check if they wished to remain on the list, respectively.

### **9) Cemetery Committee**

Cllrs Stevenson and Graham had investigated the drainage at the Cemetery and recommended that the Council hire a contractor to free the blocked chamber and ensure the water ran free from the field to the burn. The Council agreed for Cllr Graham to ask Peter Dodd to carry out the work.

### **10) Rights of Way & Access Committee**

John Rookes of Hexham Ramblers Association attended the meeting following on from conversations with Cllr Swaile about Rights of Way (RoW) management in Northumberland. John was in regular communication with NCC and had raised his concerns at a recent meeting with a follow up meeting to be held in March 2023. His concerns included:

- a) the custom and practice of NCC to manage and pay for stile repairs using its own teams of contractors, despite its lack of resources, when legislation required landowners to maintain stiles and keep RoW open.
- b) landowners not aware of, or of being made aware, that it was their responsibility to fix stiles over fences, and bridges over culverts etc

c) the current clunky on-line method of collecting information that was out of date (NCC planned to replace this with the Fix My Street method of reporting as was currently used for cases of fly-tipping). Despite being new to the work, Cllr Beck wanted to know how Allendale Parish Council's Rights of Way Committee could help Hexham Ramblers and their work in this area, as well as the work of Duncan Lovatt, NCC's Area Countryside Officer. John said that NCC were understandably nervous about allowing others, including the Ramblers Association, to carry out works on private land, but that most landowners were perfectly capable of fixing their own stiles etc, but they had got used to NCC doing this on their behalf. After discussion the Council agreed to the following actions:

- 1) the Clerk to express its displeasure about the ongoing deterioration of 150 RoW's in the parish to Paul Jones, NCC's Service Director of Local Services.
- 2) John Rookes to share his spreadsheet (with grid references) with Allendale PC listing the 149 footpath and bridleway issues in the parish requiring action by NCC, and the link to the Definitive Map that shows all the Rights of Way in Northumberland.
- 3) Cllr Swaile to find out from Andy Lees of North Pennines AONB whether there was funding available for a community project to help fix the footpaths (as there was for Devon AONB).

### **11) Towns & Villages Committee**

#### **RoSPA play safety inspection reports**

Cllr Graham to get a quote from Mark Armstrong to repair the steps up to the play frame at Denefields.

### **12) Correspondence**

**Sylvia Milburn, St Cuthbert's Church** – Cllr Simmonds agreed to take part in Decorate a Christmas Tree, and Cllr Graham agreed to source a tree and deliver it to the Church.

**Iain Hedley, Community Regeneration Service, NCC** – The Chair and Vice Chair would attend the Town, Parish, and Community Council Conference in Hexham on 24 January 2023.

**Elizabeth Beardsley and Liz Sandison – Footpath issues** – see 10) Rights of Way & Access Committee

**David Hunt, Local Services Group, NCC** – Cllr Simmonds proposed, and Cllr Halliday seconded, that the Council pay £2,000 towards keeping the Allendale toilets open throughout winter, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

### **13) Finance Committee**

#### **Accounts for payment**

Cllr Kirk proposed that the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Swaile.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **10 October 2022 - £ 67,347.47**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **10 October 2022 - £ 16,441.20**

#### **Precept setting meeting**

The Finance Committee agreed to meet on 22 November to set the draft Precept.

### **14) Matters for 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 agenda**

#### **Matters for the Town, Parish, and Community Council Conference**

#### **Precept setting**

### **15) Confidential agenda item (for Council only)**

There was none.

### **16) Date of next Parish Council**

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **1<sup>st</sup> December 2022** at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 21:20